

HEAD LICE POLICY

PURPOSE

To control the spread of head lice (pediculosis) with quick and consistent response to reports of head lice whilst ensuring that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their effective treatment.

SCOPE

To provide guidelines and processes to effectively manage and minimise head lice outbreaks within the school and to collaborate with parents and the broader school community to implement practices and procedures.

To ensure student confidentiality whilst maintaining a sympathetic attitude and avoiding stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.

DEFINITIONS

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands and therefore, they need to be controlled.

POLICY

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal authorises classroom teachers and student support staff to carry out visual checks of students' heads for head lice (observations without touching of the student's head or hair). The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students' head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have signed the permission section on the enrolment form will be inspected, however, all students may still be visually checked.
- A confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Appendix A: Alert Notice Form) will be issued to students having eggs and lice as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice. Parents of students without head lice or eggs will receive notification of a head check occurring in the grade to support communication within the school community. (see Appendix B: Action Taken Form) principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Such children will not be sent home during the school day, but will be dismissed as usual. Lice eggs are not grounds for exclusion.



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- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children are to present the signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon recommencement of school.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice is available at the school.

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2028